

return periodically, every day, and that without interruption for a time, and it will become a positive pleasure. In this way all our habits are formed." Dean Swift asserts, "that he never knew any man come to greatness and eminence who lay in bed of a morning." Rise early, then, and you will perform at least one noble act every day,—such as will be likely to be followed by many others.

5. Whatever you learn, *learn thoroughly*. To be half taught, is little better than not to be taught at all. Ten lines well learnt is better than ten pages half learnt. Whatever is worth learning or doing at all, is worth learning or doing well. None but a *thorough* Student will ever make a profound scholar. Pass over nothing, not even a word, without fully understanding everything that is known respecting it. A great man explained "how he did so much," by stating, that he "did but one thing at a time, and tried to *finish* it once for all."

6. *Be not discouraged*. Your circumstances may have been unfavourable for improvement, your attainments may be very limited, and your talents may be moderate; but *diligence* and *perseverance* will triumph over every disadvantage. "Study, well directed, (says a late writer) will make middling talents respectable, give celebrity to the great, and consummate the greatest." The learned Buffon has even defined genius itself to be, "a greater aptitude to study;" and the celebrated Helvetius describes *capacity* to be "a power to persist with extreme sensibility and ambition." Sound common sense is the only capital which perseverance requires in order to the most splendid success in the commerce of science.

7. *Do not neglect prayer*. Pray regularly, believingly, fervently. Bishop Horne has said, "prayer is the most profitable employment;" Dr. Doddridge used frequently to state, "that he never advanced in human learning without prayer, and that he always made the most proficiency in his studies when he prayed with the greatest fervency." A similar testimony has been borne by many scholars and writers. The very exercise of prayer itself induces a state of mind favourable to study; and the infallible promises of the Divine Being assure us, that "He will give wisdom to them that ask him." Never commence or close your daily studies without prayer.

8. Finally, remember that the great object of study is to *discipline your mind and fit it for usefulness in life*. None of your studies may be pleasant at the beginning; some of them may be dry and hard throughout; but the driest and the hardest studies contribute most to the discipline of the mind, and to secure its obedience to you through life. Few studies are drier and harder than Geometry; yet none contributes more to strengthen the mind and promote precision in thinking and reasoning. Recollect that there is no other road than that of *eager toil* to the temple of science. On this point I adopt the language of a late distinguished scholar and jurist: "Take it for granted, that there is no excellence without great labour. No mere aspira-

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